

SafeZones – Fact vs Fiction

Fact: SafeZones is for your safety as well as workers.

The purpose of the **SafeZones** program is to not only safeguard workers, but also protect the drivers and passengers traveling through work zones. Nationally, in 4 out of 5 work zone crashes, it is a driver or passenger who is injured or killed. Active work zones with lane shifts, reduced lane widths, jersey barrier, uneven pavement and equipment leave little margin for driver error both when workers are present and not.

Fact: SafeZones works.

In the work zones where *SafeZones* is deployed, drivers are slowing down, evidenced by the drop in the percentage of citations issued at these work zones. ***In fact, there has been a more than 75 percent reduction in the violate rate of vehicles traveling between 5 and 20 mph over the speed limit in work zones.***

	<u>JULY 2010</u>	<u>FEBRUARY 2011</u>
>0-5 mph	57	18
>6-10 mph	10	3
>11-20 mph	2.2	0.5

(Above rates are for a month period per 1,000 vehicles traveling through the work zone).

Fact: SafeZones only issues citations to drivers going 12 mph or more above the posted speed limit.

Transportation Article § 21-810, effective Oct. 1, 2009 allows the use of cameras to document drivers exceeding the speed limit by 12 mph or more in work zones along controlled access roadways with a 45 mph or higher speed limit. The civil fine is \$40 and no points are assessed against drivers' licenses. Due to the limited lanes and shoulders in construction work zones, there is limited space for police-conducted enforcement.

Fact: SafeZones has generated approximately \$16.3 million since the program's inception in fall 2009, despite reports that the program has generated that amount in only nine months.

Taking into consideration program expenses that include vendor costs, time for police certification, other programmatic costs, as well as the citations that are not paid, revenues cannot be simply derived by multiplying the number of citations by \$40. Revenues collected are being forwarded to the Maryland State Police through June 30, 2012.